

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/980,050

Examiner

N. Bhat

Applicant(s)

CHOI ET AL.

Art Unit

1764

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the filing date of 3-13-2002.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-7.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 13 March 2002 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).


* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 11-28-2001
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.


N. Bhat
Primary Examiner
Art Unit: 1764

DETAILED ACTION

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The invention relates to a reaction vessel for organic synthesis and a block device and method of using the reaction vessel and block device for simultaneously synthesizing chemical libraries by combinatorial chemistry wherein the organic synthesis reactor vessel is formed of a single hollow tube as a whole comprising a horizontal part; a vertical part formed by bending upward for an end of the horizontal part; an inlet formed by bending upward from the other end of the horizontal part; an outlet formed by bending the upper part of the vertical part in parallel with the horizontal part in the opposite direction to the inlet and engaged with a connection joint; and a filter mounted within one end of the horizontal part or the vertical part. The block device for the reaction vessel comprises a hexahedral frame wherein the front is capable of being opened or closed; a block contacting with the inner face of the rear side and inner face of both sides of the frame without a gap and having a vacuum passage going through both sides of the frame horizontally; a plurality of cock grooves formed in the upper part in specific intervals and depth; connection joint insertion grooves formed in the front part in the same intervals with the cock grooves to connect the cock grooves; a plurality of small vacuum tubes formed in the same intervals with the cock grooves and connecting the cock grooves and the vacuum passage; and a plurality of sample outlets connecting the outer face of the rear side of the frame to the cock grooves; a plurality of cocks having a connection joint insertion groove, the small vacuum tube and first and vacuum

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passage. The reaction vessel and block assembly has not been taught or fairly suggested either singularly or in combination by the prior art.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

2. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Zhou et al. teach method and apparatus for organic synthesis however, the type of reaction vessel is not formed of a single hollow tube as a whole comprising a horizontal part; a vertical part formed by bending upward for an end of the horizontal part; an inlet formed by bending upward from the other end of the horizontal part; an outlet formed by bending the upper part of the vertical part in parallel with the horizontal part in the opposite direction to the inlet and engaged with a connection joint; and a filter mounted within one end of the horizontal part or the vertical part as claimed in the instant invention. The block device further of Zhou et al. does not anticipate nor render obvious the claimed invention.

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nina Bhat whose telephone number is 571-272-1397. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Glenn Caldarola can be reached on 571-272-1444. The fax phone numbers

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for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 571-272-1196 for regular communications and 571-272-1196 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 571-272-1700.



Nina Bhat
Primary Examiner
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October 18, 2004